

you care about the country, that you ought to be given a chance to participate.

So I don't know who, specifically, you're referring to, but people are being treated incredibly humanely here—and in Guantanamo Bay, by the way. Perhaps you're referring to maybe some citizens there. I will just assure you, like I've assured the President, that people are getting fantastic health care, much better health care today in Guantanamo Bay than they were getting in Afghanistan, I can assure you.

And so our country is mindful of the need to respect people's rights. But I want to assure you, we will do, within our power, within the Constitution of the United States, what it takes to defend the American people. My most important job is to protect innocent Americans, and this is exactly what I'm going to do.

Listen, thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 11:34 a.m. in the Cross Hall at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and Minister for Education Zubeda Jalal of Pakistan. A reporter referred to President Vicente Fox of Mexico. President Musharraf referred to the Bonn Agreement, the December 5, 2001, Agreement on Provisional Arrangements in Afghanistan Pending the Re-establishment of Permanent Government Institutions, reached at a United Nations-sponsored meeting of Afghan representatives, which established the Interim Afghan Administration; and the Tokyo donors conference, the January 20–21 meeting of 61 nations which pledged \$4.5 billion for the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

## Statement on Senate Action on Farm Security Legislation *February 13, 2002*

I am committed to sound farm policy that supports America's farmers and ranchers and am disappointed that the Senate-passed bill doesn't get the job done. This bill front loads spending into the first 5 years, leaving vital programs underfunded in the years that follow. I look forward to

working with conferees to produce a plan that will benefit farmers in the long term by encouraging conservation, establishing farm savings accounts, and promoting open markets and new opportunities for producers.

## Remarks Announcing the Clear Skies and Global Climate Change Initiatives in Silver Spring, Maryland *February 14, 2002*

Thank you very much for that warm welcome. It's an honor to join you all today to talk about our environment and about the prospect of dramatic progress to improve it. Today I'm announcing a new environmental approach that will clean our skies, bring greater health to our citizens,

and encourage environmentally responsible development in America and around the world.

Particularly, it's an honor to address this topic at NOAA, whose research is providing us with the answers to critical questions about our environment. And so I want to